

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of L-lysine, comprising:
 - a) fermenting an L-lysine producing coryneform bacteria in a culture medium, the bacteria having at least an overexpressed gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase;
 - b) concentrating L-lysine produced by said fermenting in the culture medium or in the cells of the bacteria; and
 - c) isolating the L-lysine produced;wherein intracellular activity of pyruvate oxidase encoded by a pyruvate oxidase gene is decreased or switched off in the bacteria.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein an endogenous gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase is used as the overexpressed gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the overexpressed gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase is produced by transforming the bacteria with a plasmid vector carrying at least a gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase and a promoter.
4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the bacteria is a strain of the genus ~~Corynebacterium~~ Corynebacterium.
5. (Original) A process for the preparation of an L-amino acid, comprising:
 - a) fermenting an L-amino acid producing coryneform bacteria in a culture medium, the bacteria having at least an overexpressed gnd gene encoding 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase;
 - b) concentrating L-amino acid produced by said fermenting in the culture medium or in the cells of the bacteria; and
 - c) isolating the L-amino acid produced;wherein intracellular activity of pyruvate oxidase encoded by a pyruvate oxidase gene is decreased or switched off in the bacteria; and

wherein the L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-isoleucine and L-tryptophan.

6. (Original) An L-lysine producing coryneform microorganism having increased intracellular activity of 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase and decreased intracellular activity of pyruvate oxidase.

7. – 9. (Cancelled).